

**Lewis and Clark County Mental Health Local Advisory Council's
Steering Committee
Public Health Huddle Room
1930 Ninth Avenue, Helena, MT
Thursday, May 14, 2019, 8:45am**

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Members in Attendance: Jill Steeley (Chair), Matt Furlong (Vice Chair), and John Wilkinson.

Guests in Attendance: Brian Coplin.

Staff in Attendance: Jocelyn Olsen.

2. LAC Recruitment

To date, the LAC is in need of one Adult Mental Health Provider, one Lewis and Clark County School representative, and three family members or consumers in order to have a full roster.

Members brainstormed different individuals they know who could fill each of these positions. There were thoughts about asking individuals who are already involved in NAMI or the Mayor's Challenge groups as well as individuals who have previously partnered with the LAC for various events.

ACTION: Jill Steeley and John Wilkinson will reach out to individuals regarding their interest in joining the LAC as a member.

3. Update on NAMI Helena

NAMI had an update meeting last week to discuss the trajectory of the organization in regards to how the organization is going to help in specific changes at St. Peter's Hospital. The hospital will be making significant changes in how they approach behavioral health. The committee also discussed how these changes may affect Journey Home and the Crisis Response Team.

4. June Agenda Items

It would be beneficial for the LAC to be aware of the changes being made at St. Peter's Hospital, specifically the EmPATH unit, and how they can assist. It would also be helpful to discuss successes and lessons learned regarding May Mental Health

Month in order to help prepare for next year. Additionally, there was conversation about cancelling the July and August LAC general meetings as many times it is hard to gather a quorum during the summer months. After review of the Bylaws, it was determined that 2/3 of the quorum must approve the suspension of the monthly meeting provision. Cancelling the July and August meetings will need to go up for vote and approved prior to official cancellation.

ACTION: Jill Steeley will reach out to Amy Emmert to ask if she would do a 15 minute presentation at the June LAC meeting regarding the new EmPATH Unit.

5. Guest Remarks and Inquiries

Brian Coplin joined the Steering Committee meeting and presented a grant from the MT Council on Disabilities. Brian explained his perceived benefits of applying for this grant in terms of helping him to get his HELP Database in operating condition again. He explained that this grant requires a match and all applicants must be a non-profit or independent contractor which is why he needs the help of the LAC.

Brian also provided some personal background and expressed his frustration regarding certain LAC meetings in which he feels he is repeatedly interrupted and verbally assaulted. Brian explained that he feels Helena is “reinventing the wheel” with the 2-1-1 system and that previous workgroups such as the “GSD” at the United Way need to get back on track.

The Steering Committee validated the concerns and struggles Brian has and also reminded him of the mission of the LAC. The members explained that many of the concerns Brian has are valid but not all are issues that the LAC can focus on. The LAC is only able to focus on the parts that are applicable to the council. The committee also reviewed the three workgroups under the LAC and explained that all focuses Brian has regarding mental and behavioral health are items that can be worked on with and through these different workgroups.

6. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.